U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE LS-44

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION • U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ownership of Commercial Forest Land in Minnesota, 1962

The relative amounts of Minnesota's commercial forest land held by public and private owners has remained stable during the last 10 years (table 1). In both 1953 and 1962 public agencies controlled 56 percent of the commercial forest acreage and private owners 44 percent. Within this generalization are many undercurrents of change — mostly of a minor nature. Exchanges between Federal and State, and between counties and the forest industry have tended to consolidate holdings somewhat. Land purchases have resulted in a few of the larger ownerships increasing in size. Fragmentation of parcels has been minor in Minnesota despite the development of recreational use.

These are some of the conclusions drawn from the Third Forest Survey of Minnesota which was made from 1960 to 1963 by the Office of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and this station in cooperation with other public and private agencies. In 18 northern counties, a 100-percent tally of ownership was made, and county owner-

Table 1.--Area of commercial forest lands[1/] by survey units and ownership, Minnesota, 1962

(In thousand acres)

Survey unit	All ownership	National Forest[2/]	Other public[3/]	Forest industry[4/]	Farmer and miscellaneous private[5/]
Lake Superior	5,844.7	1,570.9	2,298.0	345.9	1,629.9
Rainy River	2,103.2	.8	1,572.4	207.8	322.2
Central Pine	6,033.1	569.7	3,049.2	157.8	2,256.4
Southeastern	1,900.9	-	179.8	2.5	1,718.6
Western	1,180.1	-	298.4	.8	880.9
Total in 1962	17,062.0	2,141.4	7,397.8	714.8	6,808.0
Total in 1953	18,098.0	2,195.0	7,963.0	7,940.0	
Percent in 1962	100	12.5	43.4	4.2	39.9
Percent in 1953	100	12.1	44.0	43.9	

1/ Forest land which is producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization.
2/ Federal commercial forest land which has been designated by Executive Order or statute as National Forests or purchase units, and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service.
3/ Public lands other than National Forest lands, including lands administered by Federal, State, or local public agencies.
4/ Lands owned by companies or individuals operating wood-using plants.
5/ Land privately owned by other than forest industry.
6/ Privately owned lands other than forest industry or farmer-owned lands.

MAINTAINED AT ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Table 2.--Area of commercial forest land[1] and of total land[2] by counties and ownership classes, 18 northern counties, Minnesota, 1962

(In thousand acres)

County	All ownerships	Nat'l Forest[3]	Indian[4]	Other Federal[5]	State[6]	County and municipal[7]	Forest industry[8]	Farmer owned[9]	Misc. private[10]
				COMMERCIAL FOREST LANDS					
Aitkin	850.6	-	.8	7.7	295.5	272.5	3.0	65.5	205.6
Becker	385.9	-	5.5	26.2	26.2	98.7	9.8	145.3	74.2
Beltrami	993.0	54.4	196.2	4.2	310.1	165.7	6.4	75.4	180.6
Carlton	367.0	-	8.5	-	51.6	103.5	10.9	106.0	86.5
Cass	1,006.4	249.6	11.4	*	113.0	290.5	24.5	157.7	159.7
Clearwater	367.7	-	74.7	.2	23.4	93.6	5.6	101.4	68.8
Cook	710.0	449.3	41.1	-	123.5	14.0	48.5	-	33.6
Crow Wing	447.5	-	*	.1	17.2	106.4	17.9	51.9	254.0
Hubbard	440.1	-	-	.1	75.1	141.2	22.0	112.2	89.5
Itasca	1,411.9	265.7	7.4	.6	260.1	403.5	55.3	96.8	322.5
Koochiching[11]	1,574.7	.8	42.9	48.4	792.5	291.8	203.1	34.7	160.5
Lake	1,104.0	513.6	-	-	157.0	154.0	126.0	.5	152.9
Lake of the Woods	528.5	-	78.3	6.6	311.7	.2	4.7	52.1	74.9
Mahnomen	126.6	-	33.1	-	9.5	19.5	.4	29.2	34.9
Pine	459.4	-	1.2	*	86.1	153.8	.4	119.9	98.0
Roseau	271.0	-	1.5	3.3	129.1	16.8	.4	88.0	31.9
St. Louis	3,204.3	608.0	19.2	.4	430.8	953.3	160.1	283.6	748.9
Wadena	130.0	-	-	-	5.0	16.4	13.3	63.2	32.1
Total	14,378.6	2,141.4	521.8	97.8	3,217.4	3,295.4	712.3	1,583.4	2,809.1
Percent	100.0	14.9	3.6	.7	22.4	22.9	5.0	11.0	19.5
				TOTAL LAND					
Aitkin	1,167.4	-	.8	12.9	388.8	320.8	4.4	124.4	315.3
Becker	841.6	-	6.9	31.0	35.3	106.8	10.2	511.4	140.0
Beltrami	1,610.9	59.7	303.9	6.4	577.4	178.0	7.5	186.1	291.9
Carlton	550.4	-	10.0	-	76.2	115.3	12.0	225.7	111.2
Cass	1,313.9	281.7	15.6	*	151.5	325.0	28.7	297.9	213.5
Clearwater	643.2	-	129.5	.2	46.4	115.1	7.4	233.6	111.0
Cook	897.9	630.0	41.9	-	127.3	14.5	48.6	-	35.6
Crow Wing	639.4	-	.1	.1	22.0	120.0	20.2	113.3	363.7
Hubbard	596.5	-	-	.1	83.5	150.0	24.8	203.8	134.3
Itasca	1,704.3	298.1	8.1	.6	325.4	431.1	58.8	157.9	424.3
Koochiching	2,002.6	1.6	52.7	53.3	1,085.0	305.9	212.7	65.2	226.2
Lake	1,364.5	725.4	-	-	177.5	157.9	129.7	1.4	172.6
Lake of the Woods	837.1	-	106.3	8.9	470.6	.3	4.8	130.6	115.6
Mahnomen	367.4	-	40.0	-	23.7	23.4	.7	206.0	73.6
Pine	903.7	-	1.3	.2	144.0	194.9	.9	417.8	144.6
Roseau	1,072.6	-	5.8	7.9	306.7	40.7	.9	534.4	176.2
St. Louis	4,019.8	767.8	21.7	.6	566.7	1,044.3	172.4	479.2	967.1
Wadena	343.0	-	-	-	7.0	27.9	17.9	212.3	77.9
Total	20,876.2	2,764.3	744.6	122.2	4,615.0	3,672.9	762.6	4,101.0	4,093.6
Percent	100.0	13.2	3.6	.6	22.1	17.6	3.7	19.6	19.6

1/ Forest land which produces or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

2/ The area of dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water such as marshes, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and canals less than one-eighth of a statute mile in width; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds less than 40 acres in area. Total land in all ownership by counties is based on U.S. Bureau of the Census Land and Water Area of the United States, 1960.

3/ Federal lands which have been designated by Executive Order or statute as National Forests or purchase units, and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service, including experimental areas and Bankhead-Jones Title III lands.

4/ Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (that is Indian tribal lands held in fee by the Federal government but administered for Indian tribal groups and Indian trust allotments).

5/ Federal lands other than National Forests and Indian lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and miscellaneous Federal agencies.

6/ Lands owned or administered by the State.

7/ Lands owned by counties and local public agencies.

8/ Lands owned by companies or individuals operating wood-using plants.

9/ Land owned by operators of farms.

10/ Privately owned lands other than forest-industry and farmer-owned lands.

11/ These figures differ slightly from those in the Koochiching report due to machine rounding.

* Less than 50 acres.

ship maps were prepared.[1] A sample survey was made of ownership in the remainder of the State.

Eighty-two percent of the commercial forest land and 95 percent of that owned by the public and forest industries is in the three northeastern survey units. Farmer and miscellaneous private ownership varies from 15 percent in the Rainy River Unit to 90 percent in the Southeastern Unit. Public ownership in the Western Unit is largely confined to Mahnomen and Roseau Counties.

In the 18 northern counties about 45 percent of the commercial forest land is divided nearly equally between county ownership and state ownership (table 2). Both hold substantial acreages in each of these counties. Miscellaneous private ownership is the third largest class with 19.5 percent of commercial forest land. These holdings are widely scattered. National Forests are next with 14.9 percent, concentrated in six counties — St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Itasca, Cass, and Beltrami. Two-thirds of the forest industry land occurs in just three counties — Koochiching, St. Louis, and Lake.

Distribution of total land in the northern counties by ownership classes is similar to that for commercial forest land. Ninety percent or more of the lands held by forest industries and counties are commercial forest. Only 39 percent of farmer-owned lands in the 18 northern counties is commercial forest, while about three-fourths of the total holdings of other owners is so classified.

---

1 *Ownership maps of Itasca, St. Louis, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, and Cass Counties have been published. They are available from the Office of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, 60 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101.*

April 1964

ALEXANDER M. VASILEVSKY, Forester
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation
ROBERT N. STONE, Research Forester
Lake States Forest Experiment Station